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A CENTURY HYMN.

S. F. SMITH, D.D.

Strengthened and trained by toil and tears,
Born of the bold, the brave and free,
A nation, with its hundred years,
Its tributes bring, O Lord, to Thee.

What blessings from Thy sovereign hand,
What trials has the century brought,
How has this free and glorious land
Been loved, defended, led and taught.

Our cautious feet, by night, by day,
Slowly the upward path have trod;
God was our light and God our stay
In flood and fire, in grief and blood.

So the brave oak, in calm and storm,
Spreads its strong roots and boughs abroad,
Grows grand in grace and stalwart form,
Honored of men and loved of God.

The century ends, our hosts in peace
Hold the broad land from sea to sea,
And every tongue, and every breeze
Swells the sweet anthem of the free.

Still may the banner of Thy love
O'er all our land in glory rest,
Our heaven appointed Ægis prove
And make the coming centuries blest.

Our joyful hosts to-day
Their grateful tribute pay,
Happy and free;
After our toils and fears,
After our blood and tears,
Strong with our hundred years,
O Lord, to Thee.

HENRY M. STANLEY.

Henry M. Stanley's real name is John Rowlands. Stanley was born in Wales, near the little town of Denbigh, and his parents were so poor that when he was about three years old he was sent to the poorhouse of St. Asaph to be brought up and educated. When he was thirteen years old he was turned loose to take care of himself. Young though he was, he was ambitious and well informed. As a lad, he taught school in the village of Mold, Flintshire, North Wales. He made his way to Liverpool, England, when he was about fourteen years of age, and there he shipped as cabin boy on board a sailing vessel bound to New Orleans, in the promised land to which so many British youths turn their eyes. In New Orleans he fell in with a kindly merchant, a Mr. Stanley, who adopted him and gave him his name; for our young hero's real name was John Rowlands, and he was not Stanley until he became an American, as you see. Mr. Stanley died before Henry came of age, leaving no will, and the lad was again left to shift for himself. Young Stanley lived in New Orleans until 1861, when he was twenty-one years old, having been born in 1840. Then the great Civil War broke out, and Stanley went into the Confederate Army.

After the war he became a newspaper correspondent. He was sent to Africa to find Livingstone by the *New York Herald*. He is now employed by the King of Belgium to explore Africa.

MR. GLADSTONE AND AMERICA.

Mr. Gladstone is evidently getting ready to come to this country. In an interview just reported he makes use of numerous expressions which indicate how pleased he would be to visit the United States, and although he hints that such a visit is not probable on account of his age, he would not be hindered by such a consideration. The journey could be made with much less fatigue than his recent trip to Italy, in which he scrambled over all the mountains in the Southern Provinces, and engaged in political controversies and wrote dozens of important letters daily. Mr. Gladstone says, in the interview mentioned above, that he feels an abiding gratitude to the American people. "They have been," he says, "exceedingly kind to me; kinder than I deserve. At the time of their great war I gave utterance to opinions which, considering my connection with the Ministry of the day, had better have been left unsaid. But they forget, and have forgiven."

Mr. Gladstone ought to know that all liberal Americans praise and venerate him because he has the courage to grow with the age, because he is willing to confess an error of judgment and to try for the reparation of a wrong. In view of his recent splendid services for the cause of local self-government and general freedom, this nation recognizes him as the greatest Englishman of his time, and would be glad to welcome him to these shores. Let him come, and he would have such a reception as would be accorded to no other foreigner living. "I am almost daily receiving tokens of the warm-heartedness of the American people," he says; "and I should like to look them face to face in their own country." Let him come, and the sooner the better.—*Boston Journal*.

POOR ITALY.

Italy has relatively the heaviest debt in the world. While the debt of Germany is 14 per cent. in relation to revenue, of England 26 per cent., and of Russia 35 per cent., that of Italy is 38 per cent. The growth of indebtedness during the years between 1861 and 1886 was phenomenal, the public debt alone rising from about £120,000,000 to £520,000,000. Besides this, there is an interest-bearing mortgage debt of £310,360,000, a communal debt of £35,320,000 and a provincial debt of £6,880,000, the whole showing the enormous total of £872,560,000. This involves a yearly charge of something like £38,000,000 for interest, a crushing burden for a country so unprosperous financially as Italy. A discouraging feature in the case is the fact that revenue is diminishing rather than increasing. And all this the fruits of wars in the past, and those expected in the future.

THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION.

The following resolution is now pending in the United States Congress:

"Resolved, by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That the President be, and is hereby, requested to invite, from time to time as fit occasions may arise, negotiations with any Government with which the United States has or may have diplomatic relations, to the end that any differences or disputes arising between the two Governments which cannot be adjusted by diplomatic agency may be referred to arbitration and be peaceably adjusted by such means."